



NEWS

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136 NEW CHP OFFICERS TAKE THE OATH

*Initial wave of the first major expansion of the CHP in decades
prepares to hit the streets*

(Sacramento) In one of the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) largest graduation ceremonies in nearly four years, badges were pinned on 136 newly sworn-in officers at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento today.

"These men and women have spent the past 27 weeks absorbing the true significance of accepting the badge of the nation's most distinguished traffic safety agency," said CHP Commissioner Mike Brown. "They're now part of a proud tradition devoted to making California a better and safer place to live."

In an effort to address the growth in population and licensed drivers and to enhance public safety, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2006-07 state budget provided for the expansion of the CHP by 240 officers and 173 dispatchers; the largest CHP expansion, not tied to a specific new mission, since the late 1960's.

"History has shown that with increased enforcement out there on the road, fewer lives are lost," said Commissioner Brown. According to preliminary CHP statistics for 2006, highway collision fatalities decreased 9.22 percent to 3,907 people when compared to 2005. Results also show DUI arrests are up 4.16 percent and 93.4 percent of Californians are buckling up.

The CHP employs nearly 7,000 uniformed personnel who patrol over one million miles of roadway throughout the state of California.

A new class with as many as 240 prospective cadets begins training at the CHP Academy Monday, April 2. Cadet training at the 27-week, live-in academy includes vehicle patrol, crash investigation, first aid, firearms training, and learning California's extensive Vehicle, Penal, and Health and Safety codes.

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